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photographs are too small and indistinct to have any value, but most are good, some strikingly so. The frontispiece is a view of the Athenian Acropolis, in its present condition, taken from nearly east, with the gardens along the Ilissos in the foreground and the columns of the Olympieion at the left. Akrokorinthos, the fort at Phyle, modern Sparta with Mt. Taygetos, are excellent views. Ancient portraits and some famous pieces of sculpture are also shown.

Of course, there are things to criticize. It is not possible to give children any notion of early Greek philosophy, and one had better not attempt it. Some phrases seem to imply a lower idea of the intellectual level of the Greek poets than the author probably intended; to say of Isokrates (p. 290), "His literary style lacked freshness and vigor, but was the perfection of art," implies a false, though common, notion of what constitutes art; on p. 179 the plan of the "Acropolis of Athens" is a partially inaccurate plan of the whole city; the grave *stele* on p. 122 is older than the battle of Marathon. This last fact Dr. Botsford doubtless knew; but the only hint that the monument cannot represent a "warrior of Marathon" is in the quotation marks enclosing the title. But these are minor blemishes. The book on the whole lays the stress where it should be laid, on "the character and achievements of the great men," "the development of the social and political life," "the spirit of the civilization." As helps in the use of the work are given marginal topics and references to Greek writers; "Sources" and "Modern Authorities" are grouped at the end of each chapter; and in a final chapter, after a brief summary of each period, are some examples of outline studies of special topics, suggestive hints for many similar studies, and a list of events in chronological order. Last is an index, in which proper names are accented.

T. D. GOODELL.

*The Medieval Empire.* By HERBERT FISHER, Fellow and Tutor of New College, Oxford. (London: Macmillan and Co. 1898. Two vols., pp. viii, 348; vii, 308.)

NOT since the first appearance of Mr. James Bryce's *Holy Roman Empire* has any one attempted to give in English, or in fact in any other language, so complete and careful a study of the great medieval institution as is here offered. Mr. Fisher deprecates, in almost too modest language, any intention of "trespassing" or "infringing" upon the field of his predecessor, but that field is certainly large enough for two laborers whose methods and aims are so different. Bryce's work was an essay, following a generally chronological scheme and aiming to give a consistent picture of the singular institution it describes. Fisher has discarded the chronological method. He aims at no dramatic consistency and he is not concerned with any theory as to the precise nature of the imperial system. Bryce attempted to cover the whole history of the Empire, even adding a chapter on the present utterly distinct institu-

tion of the modern German imperial state. Fisher limits himself quite strictly to its heroic period, the only period in which it deserves any careful study as an empire, the four centuries and a half from Charlemagne to the death of Frederic II.

The method employed throughout is the topical. Each chapter has a certain unity of its own and contributes to the whole in proportion to its own value as a special treatise. The effect is inevitably to produce more or less of repetition and hence of confusion. One may well question, for example, whether the great figure of Barbarossa would not have stood out in clearer relief as an exponent of the imperial theory if he could have been dealt with by himself, under one point of view, instead of appearing as he does here in a dozen different places and in connection with as many different sets of ideas.

Clearness is, of all qualities in the historian, the one most imperatively demanded of every one who touches, no matter how, upon the medieval empire; for of all human institutions none, it may safely be said, is more confusing to the modern reader. Bryce sought to make his subject clear by dwelling on the unities of the Empire; Fisher seeks the same end by bringing out a mass of detail and leaving the final impression to shape itself as it will. He gives up almost entirely any narration of events and tries only to account for the institutional ideas of which the events were but the outward expression.

This method is, so far, heartily to be commended. The problem of the book is to determine, as far as may be done, what the Empire meant as distinguished from the several lesser sovereignties included under it. This problem is to be solved by examining what the emperors actually did and what they tried to do in their imperial capacity. An emperor was ordinarily first a German territorial prince, then a king in Germany, then a king in Italy and a king in Burgundy and he might add any number of lesser dignities—yet no more false definition of his empire could be given than that it was the sum of these several powers. The Empire was an abstraction, a metaphysical entity quite independent of all realities, existing even when there was no emperor, and serving its highest purposes when it appealed to its ideal quality, not when it was doing the most to convert the ideal into a reality. Mr. Fisher is plainly quite conscious of these curious paradoxes in the institution he is studying. They appear from point to point, if one has the eye to pick them out; but it requires a good deal of previous knowledge to steer one's way through the apparent contradictions they suggest.

The fourteen chapters are of uneven excellence and value. The most important are those relating to administration, legislation and finance, and this chiefly because it is along the lines of splendid failure in these respects that the strictly imperialist tendencies of the Middle Ages are most marked. Quite characteristic is the treatment of legislation in Germany where, after sketching at length the attempts of the crown to create a sphere of action for itself, our author closes with a series of paragraphs showing the absence of such effective law-making and law-en-

forcing as might have secured to the kingdom a real control of its own resources. The final comparison with the brand-new, ready-made kingdom of Hungary well illustrates how totally different was the problem in a nation where there were no traditional units of public life. We cannot agree with Fisher's description of the origin of the electoral college as it appears in the *Sachsenspiegel*. To call Eike's account the "literary fancy of an obscure Saxon lawyer" is to ascribe too much importance to the personality of any one writer. Indeed this account itself is too "literary" to be quite sound; after all nothing except the holding of the great "ministerial" offices can plausibly account for the prestige which first brought together and then maintained these seven men as the representatives of the vast body of the "vorsten alle."

In the chapters upon Italian affairs we see the Empire more nearly in its imperial character, or, to put it more precisely, as a German power expanding itself over Italy, and using the imperial title to defend its aggressions there. The sketch of imperial legislation in Italy is instructive down to and including the attempts of Barbarossa, but grows confusing when it reaches Frederic II. His work in his own *regno* has but little analogy with even the possibilities of what might have been done in other parts of Italy. As a legislator Frederic was a Sicilian and was wise enough to know it. Doubtless he aimed to destroy the local powers throughout the peninsula, but that was a military and political rather than a legislative object, and it is confusing to represent this man, whose every instinct as a ruler came from his Italian origin and his hereditary kingdom, as an illustration of a policy connected in any organic way with the history of the "Empire."

The chapter on the imperial administration in Italy is not very satisfying. Its point of view is correct, but it does not give us quite enough of a rather abundant material on the attempts of successive rulers to place effective representatives at the head of towns or districts for administrative purposes. Here was the real *crux* of the Italian problem. As Mr. Fisher shows in many places, the Italians were curiously ready to pay moderate taxes and to admit foreigners—Germans as well as others—to executive office; but they demanded the right to define their taxation and to choose the officers themselves.

As regards imperial finances, the result of Chapter VI. is summed up in the phrase "it is needless to add that there was no general imperial taxation"—a very negative result indeed but altogether justified by the facts. This chapter deals wholly with Germany and is concerned therefore with the purely royal German aspect of the Empire. The comparison with England is instructive in more ways than the author seems to have intended.

Mr. Fisher's method of presentation may, perhaps, fairly be called "broad." The book, in spite of its somewhat repellant technical aspect, has a distinct literary flavor. Like most of its predecessors, it approaches the Empire as if its centralizing features were the most significant, and then, as it were, apologizes for finding them so little impressive.

Yet this negative result is valuable as showing once more and by a convincing process that the real history of the Empire is to be found in its parts and in their continuous resistance to the encroachments of a central power which seemed to them an intrusion upon their traditional rights.

The outward appearance of these volumes is beyond praise, but there are some curious blemishes of proof-reading. That Mr. Fisher "knows German" as that phrase is understood in England, we do not doubt, but the pages fairly bristle with inaccuracies of German quotation. On page 165 of Vol. I. we note in a space of three lines five errors which can be due only to ignorance of the language. A truly classical illustration is on page 181 of Vol. I., where a certain nominee to an imperial deputyship appears as "Frederick of Statthaltern!" Latin quotations on the other hand are eminently accurate.

*Saladin and the Fall of the Kingdom of Jerusalem.* By STANLEY LANE-POOLE, M.A. (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1898. Pp. xxiv, 416.)

SINCE the time of Scott, at least, the name of Saladin has been familiar to all lovers of English literature, and it is indeed "singular," as our author remarks in his preface, "that, so far as English literature is concerned, the character and history of Saladin should have been suffered to remain where Scott left them seventy years ago, and that no complete life of the celebrated adversary of Richard Coeur de Lion should have been written in our language." It was a happy thought to include a life of Saladin in the "Heroes of the Nations" series, for his was the life of a great and noble man, and at least some knowledge of his early career, his education and development is necessary, if we wish to understand the events which culminated in the tragedy of the loss of the city, and the fall of the kingdom, of Jerusalem. The division of the Seljuk empire, which followed the death of Melik Shah in 1092, had given the Crusaders a chance to get a foot-hold in Syria. How precarious a foot-hold they had actually secured we can realize when we remember the fact, pointed out by our author (p. 26), that at the birth of Saladin "the great cities Aleppo, Damascus, Hamah, Emesa, were still in Moslem hands, and were never taken by the Christians, though their reduction must certainly have been possible at more than one crisis." It was inevitable that, as soon as the western parts of the Seljuk empire were re-united in one strong hand, the Christian possessions in Syria should be in great peril. In this book we read how the process of reconquest and reunion, begun early in the twelfth century, and continued by Nureddin, was completed by Saladin. This great leader, with Fatimide Egypt under his sway, completely hemmed in, on the land side, the narrow domains of the Christians, and, when he was ready, attacked them with crushing force.

In an interesting preface our author gives some account of the princi-